



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk (860)441-6640
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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Monteiro

Also present were Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Watson.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0077 Proclamation Recognizing Seabird Enterprises Inc.

Read

Mayor Watson gave a brief summary of the growth and mission of Seabird Enterprises Inc., and extended appreciation on behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Groton for their 25 years of service to both individuals with disabilities and to the community as a whole.

2008-0118 Proclamation Recognizing the TRIAD Program

Read

Councilor Kolnaski read a proclamation recognizing the TRIAD Program.

Recess for Public Hearing

Mayor Watson called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

2008-0088 Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Intersection

Heard at Public Hearing

Lee Vincent gave a brief overview of the proposed project. Town engineers want to realign this intersection to a more traditional "T" where there is a 90 degree left or right choice. The Town will swap property with a homeowner and a cash exchange will not be necessary as the Town is receiving more square footage than it is giving up. Mr. Vincent further stated that this transaction is a routine land exchange, and the intersection will be better engineered for public safety.

There being no further comments, Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2008-0161 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 3, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2008-0164 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Patricia Schnappinger - \$25.00 - Library Donation Funds
Genette D. Gerow - \$10.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Bruce and Kathleen Flax - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
John and Lisa Reeves - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Susan and Scott Berry - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Lori Smith - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Cidalia Schott - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Duane and Patricia Grant - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Chad and Tina Copeland - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Robert Cronan - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Marie Streimer - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Ronald and Christina Adams - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Mark and Debra Luke - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Luanne and John Hespeler - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Various Donations - \$110.73 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
Union Baptist Church - \$1,680.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
John and Linda Crosskey - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Betsey Fox - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Dorothea B. Moore - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Rivka Horowitz, M.D. and Harold Pessirilo - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
David G. Williams - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Paul and Sheila Scott - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Robert and Sarah McQuilkin - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Dr. John and Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Fitch High School Association Key Club - \$900.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Groton/Ledyard Rotary - \$1000.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
James Lanyon - \$6.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Pequot Cyclists - \$75.00 - Library Donation Funds
Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$50.00 - Library Donation Funds
G. Thomas Couser - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2008-0154 FYE 2008 Suspense List**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor O'Beirne received two emails from residents of Noank supporting the use of the Noank School as a temporary Senior Center.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District meeting, a Phase II Committee meeting, and a TRIAD program presentation.

Councilor Streeter received the same emails as mentioned previously. In addition, he received an email regarding volunteer firefighter legislation and a concern about volunteer firefighter coverage in Noank. Councilor Streeter attended a Groton Animal Foundation fundraiser and remarked that GAF is continuing to strive to reach the fundraising goals that it has committed to the Town.

Councilor Sheets, along with Mayor Watson, attended the Council of Governments meetings in Hartford. Legislation regarding the extension of the conveyance tax passed and the current Town conveyance tax rate will be extended for another two years.

Councilor Schmidt received no communications.

Councilor Brown-Tracy received the same emails as reported by the other Councilors.

Mayor Watson received the same emails as other Councilors. He attended the Retirement Ceremony for Board of Education employees, a Pfizer breakfast to thank those who greeted individuals from Ann Arbor last year regarding their possible relocation to Groton, a 25th Anniversary of Seabird Enterprises at which he read a proclamation, and a SCWA meeting. The Mayor was also present at a Flag Day ceremony in Mystic, a Mystic Cooperative Task Force meeting, a TRIAD meeting, a meeting regarding the trail from Preston to Bluff Point, and a joint Town Council/Stonington Board of Selectmen meeting to talk about mutual issues.

Councilor Bond arrived at this point in the meeting.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro

Town Councilors (continued)

Councilor Bond had no additional items other than those already reported.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

At its meeting on June 11, the RTM approved 4th quarter transfers, reappropriation of funds for the Fitch High School auditorium, and the sale of two parcels of land on Buddington Road. The ordinance creating the OPEB Trust was not vetoed and will become effective on July 27.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

Lee Vincent informed the Council that Group I and Group II will meet on June 24, 2008. Two interviews will be conducted for appointments to various boards and commissions, and there will be a discussion on the Climate Change Initiative in the Environment and Energy Committee.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

No meeting, no report.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2008-0154 FYE 2008 Suspense List****RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 SUSPENSE LIST**

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectable have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$453,881.26
Sewer District: \$1,453.71
Mumford Cove: \$13.59
Total: \$455,348.56

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Lee Vincent clarified that none of this tax is being "forgiven". If property is sold or there is another opportunity to recover these taxes, the Town will attempt to do so. The suspense list simply gives the finance staff permission to stop sending letters and hiring collection agencies. These particular tax delinquencies are simply being shifted to another mode of administration.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bond was present at the Noank Zoning Commission meeting just prior to attending this Town Council meeting. She reported that there will be a Public Hearing on July 15, 2008, concerning the use of the Noank School for the temporary relocation of the Senior Center.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant